

REMARKS

Claims 13-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 are canceled and claims 13-30 are added. Support for independent claims 13, 19 and 25 can be found in, for example, prior claims 1, 10 and 11, and in the present specification page 16, lines 17-24. Support for dependant claims 14-18, 20-24 and 26-30 can be found in, for example, prior claims 2-6. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by US006906764B2. By this Amendment claims 1 and 4-6 are canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over US006906764B2 in view of 20040048950. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

III. New Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims define patentable subject matter. The Office Action indicates original claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. New claims 13 and 19 recite the allowable features of claims 10 and 11, and thus are allowable. Claims 14-18 and 20-24 depend from allowable claims 13 and 19, and thus are likewise allowable.

Claim 25 similarly recites a color filter layer of a light absorption type disposed on a surface of a liquid crystal layer opposite from a protective layer. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest an optical element having such a

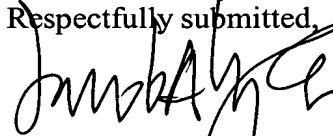
configuration. Claims 26-30 depend from allowable claim 25, and thus are likewise allowable.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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